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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Application of :  
 Hiroyuki WATANABE et al. :  
 Serial No. 09/864,959 : Group Art Unit - 3622  
 Filed: May 24, 2001 : Examiner - Tri V. Nguyen  
 For: ELECTRONIC COUPON :  
 ISSUING SYSTEM AND :  
 ISSUING METHOD : Docket No. S004-4306

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Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
 COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
 UNDER PATENT RULES 97 AND 98**

**S I R:**

Applicants submit this information disclosure statement pursuant to 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98.

The present application was filed more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. However, as of the date of filing of this statement, neither a final action under 37 CFR §1.113 nor a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311 has been mailed in this application. Accordingly, this information disclosure statement is being filed under 37 CFR §1.97(c).

**MAILING CERTIFICATE ON PAGE 3**

**Rule 97(c) Fee**

A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed to cover the required fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p). Should the check be insufficient or should other fees be required, authorization is hereby given to charge any such insufficiency or fee to Deposit Account No. 01-0268.

**Information Disclosure Statement**

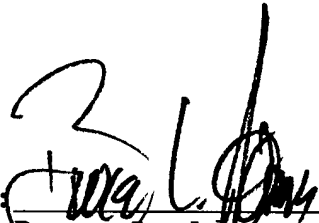
Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.98, a listing of a Japanese publication submitted for consideration by the PTO is provided on annexed Form PTO-1449. A legible copy of the Japanese publication listed on the Form is submitted herewith.

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3), a concise explanation in English of the relevance of the Japanese publication is attached.

Consideration of this information disclosure statement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAMS & WILKS  
Attorneys for Applicants

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Bruce L. Adams  
Reg. No. 25,386

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Suite 1231  
New York, NY 10004  
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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Debra Buonincontri

Name



Signature

MARCH 31, 2006

Date

FORM PTO-1449

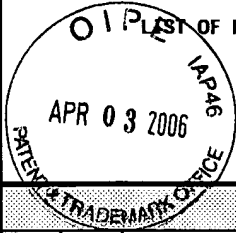
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

S004-4306

SERIAL NO.

09/864,959



APPLICANT

Hiroyuki WATANABE et al.

FILING DATE

May 24, 2001

GROUP

3622

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| * |    | DOCUMENT NO. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |  |
|---|----|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|------|------|-------|----------|----------------------------|--|
|   |    |              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |      |       |          |                            |  |
|   | AA |              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |      |       |          |                            |  |
|   | AB |              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |      |       |          |                            |  |
|   | AC |              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |      |       |          |                            |  |
|   | AD |              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |      |       |          |                            |  |
|   | AE |              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |      |       |          |                            |  |
|   | AF |              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |      |       |          |                            |  |
|   | AG |              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |      |       |          |                            |  |
|   | AH |              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |      |       |          |                            |  |
|   | AI |              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |      |       |          |                            |  |
|   | AJ |              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |      |       |          |                            |  |
|   | AK |              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |      |       |          |                            |  |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| * |    | DOCUMENT NO. |   |   |   |   |   |   |          | DATE  | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |    |
|---|----|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------|-------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|   |    |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |          |       |         |       |          | YES         | NO |
|   | AL | 11           | 1 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 07-02-99 | JAPAN | --      | --    | abst     |             |    |
|   | AM | 0            | 0 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 01-21-00 | JAPAN | --      | --    | abst     |             |    |
|   | AN | 7            | 2 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 10-13-95 | JAPAN | --      | --    | abst     |             |    |
|   | AO | 1            | 1 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 01-22-99 | JAPAN | --      | --    | abst     |             |    |
|   | AP | 10           | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 05-29-98 | JAPAN | --      | --    | abst     |             |    |
|   | AQ |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |          |       |         |       |          |             |    |

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

|  |    |  |
|--|----|--|
|  | AR |  |
|  | AS |  |
|  | AT |  |

EXAMINER: Tri V. Nguyen

DATE CONSIDERED:

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.